



**City of Kingston  
Conservation Advisory Council  
420 Broadway  
Kingston, NY 12401  
(845) 331-1682 x. 7339**

**Monthly Meeting Minutes  
City Hall Conference Room 1  
September 8, 2010**

**Roll Call:** 6:40 pm

**In attendance:**

**Board Members**

Julie Noble (Chair)  
Felipa Gaudet (Secretary)  
Judith Deming  
Sophie Dolamore  
Valeria Gheorghiu  
Elizabeth Higgins  
Gregg Swanzey

**Guests:**

Lynn (Lei) Isaacs  
Mrs. Dempskie, Josh Demskie, Christina Demskie  
Hayes Clament  
Bill More (DEC)  
Steve Johnson -planning board

**Public Comment:**

Discussion moved from New Business section. All in agreement.

Lynn Issacs spoke on behalf of the Dempskie family's keeping of a flock of chickens. As a neighbor of the Dempskie family, she strongly supports the family's keeping of chickens. She believes that supporting this family's right to keep chickens is important for sustainable living.

Mrs. Dempskie explained how the family came to care for the chickens. Her son, Josh, wanted to hatch eggs and Christina shared how she cares for the chickens and shared a picture of her rooster, Fluffy. A neighbor complained about the rooster and had called the city to report it as a nuisance.

Lynn shared that the neighborhood has become quieter since the chickens have been at the Dempskie's home. The experience has instilled kindness and an appreciation for life among the neighborhood children.

All parties shared problems with aggressive dogs in the neighborhood.

Julie spoke with Jim Brunner about this issue related to the city code. The code addresses noise, smell, and buildings. He is concerned that enforcement is difficult due to the ambiguity regarding which department should enforce the code. Ambiguity also exists regarding what are pets and what are farm animals.

Valeria shared Saugerties's Right to Farm Law. The county language states that animals cannot be kept within 50 feet of a structure. Valeria suggested that we could contact other CAC's in the area to suggest that language be included in the law to state that the local law should protect these rights despite the county law. She also

shared that our CAC could share our recommendations to the mayor or city council for clarification, rather than recommend legislation.

Judith shared her concern regarding the possible fine that the Dempskie family is facing and that enforcement is contingent upon a neighbor's complaint.

Gregg shared that a distinction should be made between raising chickens for pets versus having a farm. He believed that by clarifying this distinction, we may be able to apply current regulations rather than recommend creating new legislation. He shared that language exists defining a farm.

Valeria shared the following possibilities:

- Test case – can bring this case to court and dispute it. Can garner public support through awareness.
- CAC can author interpretive guidelines for the judge's reference.

Julie suggested that the CAC research this issue further to make formal recommendations to the Common Council regarding the raising of livestock. Judith was interested in researching Saugerties's Right to Farm Law. Valeria made a motion to form a subcommittee to create interpretive guidelines for this issue. Julie second. All in favor. Valeria, Judith and Lynn will form the subcommittee.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Approval July Meeting minutes. No minutes for August, as only three people were in attendance. Gregg motion. Judith second.

### **Old Business**

#### **1. Climate Smart Pledge**

- a. Climate Analyst – funding will be released and climate analyst job will be posted. A draft of the posting was shared with the CAC members.
  - i. Two possibilities –
    1. wait until January 1<sup>st</sup> – no budget modifications would be necessary
    2. Request a budget modification from the Common Council and the start date could be set earlier than January 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - ii. Melissa Everett had shared that the posting does not create concrete, measurable outcomes and suggested that those be added to the listing.
  - iii. Valeria shared concern about waiting until January 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - iv. Julie shared that keeping this an open process is important.
  - v. Valeria shared that Vic Melville suggested that we really educate people about the pledge, specifically the city employees.
  - vi. Julie shared that including city employees continues to be a challenge. Some pledge meetings could be held during the work day to include city employees.
- b. Report from the Second Public Visioning session.
  - i. Valeria shared that the public visioning session was attended by about seventeen people. Valeria's group will meet September 23 to keep the momentum going.
  - ii. Julie shared that one person's concern of the use of the term 'focus group' and recommended the change to the "subcommittees", which will make recommendations to the climate analyst. She suggested contacting people who were interested in the various groups and send a doodle poll for the groups to meet.
  - iii. Julie asked group about combining Renewable Energies and Energy Use Reduction groups. Valeria expressed favor. All in favor.
  - iv. Felipa shared the recommendation by the group that some meetings will be held earlier in the day so city and school officials can attend. Also, holding the meetings in specific sites (local churches, etc.) was suggested to increase public participation and input.
  - v. Julie will contact groups to set up next meetings.

- c. Ward Meeting updates
  - i. Landi – Ward 3 will have CAC speak at next meeting.
  - ii. Jen Fuentes – Ward 5 - Second Friday of every month - City Hall – Either September 10 or October 8 at 6:00- Felipa will attend
  - iii. Valeria will contact Tom Hoffay about the Ward 2 meeting
- 2. Website update/Social Media –
  - a. Felipa has not done anything recently, but will work more on it within the next couple of weeks.
  - b. Sophie shared need for material to post and need for more people to “Like” it.
- 3. Members
  - a. Allison, Julie, Gregg, Liz, Syd – terms end December 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - b. Judith, Valeria and Felipa – end in June 2011 (?)
  - c. Julie will need to know whether or not we will be applying to continue our term by November’s meeting.
  - d. CAC will be accepting applications for a two-year term.
- 4. Recommendations for the Planning Board –
  - a. Conservation Boards (CB) – a CAC can become a CB if they gain enough expertise on issues of development
  - b. Julie suggested - Protect biodiversity, green materials in buildings, incorporate renewables and solid recycling plan, plan for open space, complete streets, development adaptable for climate change, pervious surfaces, energy efficient lighting, storm water runoff, flood planning for climate change, Green infrastructure and pesticide use on properties
  - c. Bill shared that some of the above items are already addressed by the planning board, while others need more insight.
  - d. Valeria suggested looking into Act 250 in Vermont – which thoroughly takes into consideration environmental, social, etc. impacts
  - e. Liz inquired about the areas that are already taken into consideration by planning board versus new issues that we can help to investigate.
  - f. Gregg inquired about a comprehensive master plan for Kingston.
  - g. Julie suggested sharing the above list of areas for recommendation with a member of the planning board to ask with which areas they need support/information.

### **Announcements/Communications**

Valeria shared Marcellus Shale communication from the industry – Discussion about the possible impact – Gas Land documentary – October 17<sup>th</sup> in Catskill

October 12 – Felipa – planning board

Regional Approaches to Conservation Conference – November 19-21 at The Thayer Hotel at West Point

Judith made a motion to adjourn meeting. Julie second. All in favor

**Adjournment:** 8:47